

Appl. No. 10/673,679
Amdt. Dated 12/26/2007
Reply to Office action of 09/25/2007

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Examiner stated that claims 1-10, 12-16, 18, 20, 23-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Garcia (US 2003/0007612).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

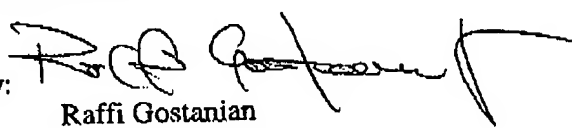
The Examiner stated that claims 11, 17, 19, 21, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia (2003/0007612) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Rtischev et al. (US 5,634,086).

Response

Garcia has a priority date of 08/26/2002 while the instant invention has a priority date of 02/15/2001. As such, Applicant does not believe that Garcia is a valid basis for providing the 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103 rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

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